MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 FEBRUARY 1982

Palestine National Council

A political statement issued by the Palestine National Council (PNC) at its concluding session in Algiers and broadcast by Algiers radio declared that the PNC "rejects" the Reagan peace proposal as a sound basis for a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian cause and to the Arab-Israeli conflict because the plan does not respect the established national rights of the Palestinian people and contradicts international law. The PNC declared that the Arab plan adopted in Fes is the "minimum" level for Arab political action and announced that political moves must "complement military action" in order to adjust the balance of forces in favor of the Palestinian struggle. The statement also expressed "appreciation and support" for the Brezhnev plan, which asserts the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. The PNC further announced that future relations with Jordan should be formed on the basis of a confederation between two independent states. On contacts with Jewish personalities, the council reaffirmed the PNC's 13th session political declaration and called on the PLO Executive Committee "to study movement in this framework" in accordance with the interests of the Palestinian cause.

The concluding speech by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat broadcast by Algiers radio discussed the Israeli invasion of Lebanon but did not refer to the Reagan plan or to relations with Jordan. 'Arafat was reelected Executive Committee chairman, the radio also noted. In another development informed sources in Amman disclosed that 'Arafat will visit Jordan in March to resume talks with King Husayn on the Jordanian-Palestinian "political move," Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Lebanon

Shamir on Reagan Offer -- Reacting to President Reagan's offer to guarantee Israel's northern border, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said Israel is not asking for U.S. security guarantees in the north and prefers to reach a direct agreement on security arrangements with the Lebanese Government, according to Jerusalem radio. He added that U.S. guarantees could be helpful but that they could not replace an Israeli-Lebanese agreement.

Subcommittee Talks -- The Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. military subcommittee agreed on 22 February that Major Sa'd Haddad's forces would be integrated into the Lebanese Army although Haddad's fate has not yet been decided, Jerusalem radio reported. Meanwhile, an Israeli source asserted that agreement on the issues of warning stations, UNIFIL's presence in the security zone, and the pace of normalization will not be achieved in the subcommittees and he said the "large gap" that remains will require involving senior political figures, the radio added.

Israel

Arens Appointment -- The Cabinet unanimously approved Prime Minister Begin's proposal to appoint Ambassador Moshe Arens as defense minister, Jerusalem radio announced. Earlier Arens declared that former Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon will have "no authority whatsoever" over the IDF, the radio reported citing an Arens interview on French television.

Shamir on Egypt, PNC Meeting -- Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir confirmed that Israel is maintaining contacts with Egypt in order to improve bilateral relations but that Jerusalem "is concerned" over the "courting" of PLO officials by Egyptian Government leaders, IDF Radio noted. Addressing the Jerusalem economic club, Shamir stated that

Israel is ready to discuss Tabah with Egypt but only within the framework of deliberations on "common issues," another IDF Radio report added. Earlier Jerusalem radio cited a senior Egyptian source's "amazement" over Israeli media reports on the intention to resume the bilateral talks on Tabah "this week." The source reiterated that both countries had pledged not to publish details on the matter before the talks resume.

In a later IDF Radio report, Shamir described the PNC resolutions as "resolutions of war" and said that the PLO will not enter Jerusalem via possible negotiations with Jordan.

Sudan-Egypt-Libya

Egyptian President Mubarak and Sudanese President Numayri met in Khartoum for talks on bilateral integration, according to an official statement carried by MENA. After the meeting Numayri told a press conference reported by MENA that they approved measures to further economic and social integration but did not discuss the situation on the Sudanese-Egyptian-Libyan border, although they did mention news reports about the border situation. Asserting that the Libyan "threat" to Sudan is continuing and is unlikely to stop, Numayri revealed that Sudanese authorities recently seized a shipload of Libyan arms intended for Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's "agents" in Sudan and also intercepted a message form Al-Qadhdhafi ordering his Sudanese associates to postpone their planned coup to give Libya time to end its problems with the United States and Egypt. Mubarak also spoke at the press conference, disclosing that two Libyan planes recently violated Egyptian airspace and reaffirming Egypt's commitment to its joint defense treaty with Sudan. He said the U.S. AWACS planes are in Egypt for training purposes and stated that Egypt did not ask the United States to move the 6th Fleet toward Libya.

Libyan Aircraft Hijacking

The hijacked Libyan Airlines plane remained in Malta while negotiations continued between the hijackers and Maltese authorities, JANA reported on 23 February. Earlier the hijackers released 1 of the 160 hostages aboard the plane, AFP noted.

Gulf Oil Ministers Meeting

The oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, and the UAE discussed current developments in the oil market during two closed meetings in Riyadh, according to SPA reports. Noting that the talks concentrated on prices, the Saudi petroleum and mineral affairs minister, Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, said the talks would continue on 23 February in order to reach agreement. Earlier the Qatari oil minister spoke of the need for a considerable cut in the price of oil while the UAE minister indicated that a price reduction is likely, SPA noted.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iranian fighter planes and air defense units shot down an Iraqi aircraft in the Wal Fajr operational zone, an Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio asserted. An Iraqi military spokesman denied the Iranian claim, INA announced.

Pakistan

The Sind Government has imposed a curfew in west Karachi and has closed Karachi educational establishments for 2 days in view of the tense situation in the city, Karachi radio reported. Earlier a Karachi administration press statement reported by the radio announced that five people were killed in clashes between rival groups and that a number of others, including seven policemen were injured. According to AFP, the violence erupted when Sunni extremists attacked Shi'ite mosques and called a general strike to protest police teargassing.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KARMAL ADDRESSES TRADE UNION PLENUM 18 FEB

LD182351 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0425 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] Kabul February 17 BAKHTAR -- Babrak Karmal said today that it is for the first time in Afghanistan that the workers themselves are participating in codifying laws relating to work and workers and that it was also for the first time that the workers were entering into collective agreements with their respective managements.

The general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the RC [Revolutionary Council] of the DRA was addressing the participants of the 6th Plenum of the Central Council of the Trade Unions of the DRA whom he received at the headquarters of RC.

Babrak Karmal told the trade union representatives that the establishment of the trade unions in the DRA was the result of the arduous and heroic struggle and martyrdoms for this cause. The PDPA, he added, both before the revolution and after the revolution has taken profound lessons from the valuable experience of the world working class movement. "We can see with pride today that the trade unions have been established in Afghanistan".

Babrak Karmal said that the workers must make maximum use of the experiences of the Soviet Union and the world working class as a whole. He pointed out that abundant experiences and numerous work exist in this connection. He called upon the trade union leaders to discuss and deliberate upon this experience at the seminars, meetings, and plenums of the Central Council of Trade Unions of Afghanistan in the light of the specific conditions of Afghanistan and the typical content and essence of the working class movement of the country. Recalling the struggle of PDPA against the deviations which were imposed on the working class movement of Afghanistan in prerevolutionary times, Babrak Karmal said: "Notwithstanding all the dangers, the PDPA endeavored to guide the working class movement of the country on to a principled course which would be in harmony and accord with the conditions of Afghanistan. The party endeavored to give class consciousness to the workers, unite them and gain access to all the ranks of the working people.

Babrak Karmal invited the attention of the trade union activists to their mission of rallying the workers and the working people in the trade unions. The trade union activists, he added, must be mighty and powerful propagators and talk to the workers in their own language. They should gain knowledge of what worthy demands of workers are and convince them that it is the trade unions which defend their legitimate rights.

Babrak Karmal expressed satisfaction on the creation of self-defence units by the workers at the enterprises and called it a great initiative. He noted with pride that the workers took this initiative simultaneously with launching work emulation drives.

A number of workers representatives from Kabul and other provinces, including Sattar Purdeli, the president of the Central Council of Trade Unions of Afghanistan, made brief speeches on the occasion and assured that the members of trade unions would take part with revolutionary fervour in the building of the country.

'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES' SET FIRE TO MOSQUE

LD191902 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] Mercenary and godless counterrevolutionaries, who have always committed crimes and treachery against people's lives and beliefs, this time stained their dirty hands with yet another crime against the people's sacred religious places and beliefs.

According to a report of the BAKHTAR Information Agency, the criminal rebels last Thursday evening in a dastardly manner set fire to the minarets of takya khana [Shi' a religious center] in Chindawal.

These godless mercenaries once again have shown that, in the service of the enemies of Islam, they would not shrink from any crime against people and their religious beliefs. This action has aroused the anger and hatred of our faithful people against this unforgivable crime by the rebels.

Security forces are continuing the investigation into the case.

The BAKHTAR correspondent quotes a source in the Council of Ministers to the effect that the latter has appointed a board to oversee the urgent repair of the takya khana; repairs will be started as soon as possible.

BAKHTAR Commentator

LD230415 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Kabul, Feb 21, BAKHTAR -- The political commentator of the BIA writes:

The counter-revolutionaries have lately resorted to another crime. They arsoned the general takya khana of Chindawal which was a sacred place of worship for the Muslims.

This is not the first time that the filthy face of these unfaithful and anti-religion rebels is exposed and the people can see openly that the lackeys who claim to be defending the holy religion of Islam are nothing more than unfaithful and atheist criminals who are using religion as a means of their trade and consolidation of position of their imperialist masters in this region of the world. They have arsoned hundreds of mosques, have burned the holy book of God, martyred dozens of patriotic clergies. In this general takya khana alone they burned 6,000 volumes of holy Koran in addition to other things.

On the other hand the [word indistinct] measures of the DRA state to repair the general takya khana of Chindawal have drawn keen attention of our pious people. The DRA state, especially after the new and evolutionary phase of the revolution, has shown that it honestly follows the Islam guarantee in the fundamental principles of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Despite the undeclared war of imperialism against the country, the state with all available forces and possibilities has not spared any effort to repair and build mosques and takya khanas, to help the noble clergies perform the sacred duties. After the new and evolutionary phase of the revolution hundreds of new mosques have been built or repaired.

The resolution of the first conference of ulema and clergies of the DRA which was held in Kabul in the month of July 1980 says in this connection that the DRA state considers the deep respect, serious observance of the people's national and religious traditions and the following of the principles of the holy Islamic religion as its duty. Since practice is a sign of truthfulness and reality, all the noble people of Afghanistan can see that there is general and complete freedom of religion, customs and national traditions and full freedom of performing religious ceremonies and prayers in mosques and takya khanas and in the houses. The people of Afghanistan with all their religious sentiments condemn this act of the criminal counter-revolutionaries who have arsoned the worship place of Muslims and the book of God and curse them. Such actions cannot rescue the counter-revolution from a decisive and a real defeat.

LEADERS HONOR LANGUAGE MOVEMENT MARTYRS

BK210630 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Amar Ekushey, the immortal 21st of February, is today. The day commemorates the supreme sacrifices made by the martyrs of the 1952 language movement. On this day 31 years ago, a number of great sons of our soil laid down their lives to establish Bangla as the state language.

The day's program began with the laying of wreaths at the Central Shahid Minar by President Assanuddin Chowdhury and the Chief Martial Law Administrator Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad at 1 minute past midnight last night. The deputy chief martial law administrator, Rear Admiral M.A. Khan, and Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud, the zonal martial law administrator, Zone A, Major General Abdur Rahman, and Cabinet ministers also laid wreaths at the minar.

To pay homage to the martyrs, people from all walks of life [word indistinct] of the side of the Shahid Minar since midnight and the unending stream is continuing.

CURFEW HOURS FOR DHAKA 'FURTHER RELAXED'

BK221721 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] The curfew hours in the Dhaka metropolitan area, including the university campus, have been further relaxed. The curfew hours from now on will be from 0000 midnight to 0500 in the morning until further order.

DCMLA KHAN ON RESTORATION OF DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

BK230609 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrator (DCMLA) and Minister for Communications Rear Admiral M.A. Khan has reiterated the government's determination to restore democratic and fundamental rights of the people.

Addressing the fifth founding anniversary of Shah Jalal Jamia Islamia and Sylhet yesterday, the DCMLA said it is possible to build an exploitation-free new Bangladesh through the implementation of political programs aimed at people's welfare and initiating the political process through district and thana administration. He called for introducing a proper and dependable system for the posterity through discussions. [as heard] The people should respond to the call by Chief Martial Law Administrator Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad for a dialogue at the national level for resumption of the political process along with the continuation of economic and administrative programs.

About the education system, Admiral Khan said the government has undertaken revolutionary steps for the development and use of Bangla at all levels. Our tradition and heritage are matters of our pride and glory, he added.

RAHIM CITES NONALIGNED ROLE IN IRAN-IRAQ CONFLICT

BK221435 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr A.A. Rahim, has expressed the view that only the Nonaligned Movement can come out with a permanent solution to the Iran-Iraq conflict.

In an interview with GULF TIMES, he said that India and other members of the movement consider it as a delicate and complicated issue, since both Iran and Iraq are nonaligned countries.

Mr Rahim said other major issues which are expected to come up for discussion at the summit are Palestinian, Afghan, and Namibian problems.

SPOKESMAN: NUCLEAR PROGRAM FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES

BK230630 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] New Delhi has described as utterly irresponsible and possibly mischievous a foreign news report linking India's peaceful nuclear program with a suggestion that it is getting ready to build atomic bombs. An official spokesman was replying to questions by newsmen about the news report which had emanated from Washington. He recalled that the prime minister and other Indian leaders have repeatedly stated that India's nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only.

CONGRESS-I SECURES 'ABSOLUTE MAJORITY' IN ASSAM

BK230330 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Excerpts] In Assam, the Congress-I has secured an absolute majority. Out of the 81 results declared so far, the party has secured 70 seats in a house of 126. The Communist Party of India and the Communist Party of India-Marxist have opened their accounts with one seat each. The Plains Tribals Council of Assam has been returned from two constituencies. The Congress-S has got one, and six seats have gone in favor of independents. Former Chief Minister Mrs Anwara Taimur of Congress-I has been reelected from Dalgaon constituency. She defeated her nearest Congress-S rival by a margin of over 1,500 votes.

Two Lok Sabha results have come from Assam. Both of them have gone in favor of Congress-I.

ARMY ALERTED 'TO STAND BY' AUTHORITIES IN ASSAM

BK221618 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] In Assam, the state government has drawn up a comprehensive plan for the rehabilitation and security of the people affected by the recent disturbances in different areas.

The adviser to the state governor, Mr R.V. Subramaniam, said in Gauhati today that relief operations among the affected people has been taken up on a war footing. Mr Subramaniam told the All India Radio Gauhati correspondent that the army has been alerted to stand by the civil authorities to help tackle any situation whenever necessary.

PAPERS CRITICIZE GANDHI'S ASSAM ELECTION DECISION

BK221507 Hong Kong AFP in English 0941 GMT 22 Feb 83

[By Ravi Velloor]

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Feb. 22 (AFP) -- Even before the dust settled in Assam's bloodied villages, criticism has begun to mount at the federal government's decision to hold controversial state elections that sparked a wave of violence in the strategic northeastern border state.

Indian newspapers today pulled no punches in calling the decision to hold the elections to the state legislature and for 12 seats to the national parliament an "ill-conceived move."

The independent but generally pro-establishment THE TIMES OF INDIA called the polls a "farce" and demanded that they be invalidated while others called for the immediate deployment of the Indian Army and for a national effort to restore peace to Assam.

Mrs Gandhi and her political lieutenants had pleaded a constitutional obligation to elect a new legislature before March 18 to justify the polls. They had also argued that major opposition parties had been unwilling to go along with amending the Constitution to expand presidential rule, which was imposed last year to curb unrest.

THE TIMES said that statement was at best "a half truth -- instead of expiation."

Editorials here also pointed out that the weekend massacre in Neoli that reportedly claimed 1,000 lives was the most grisly since the 1946 Calcutta killings, which led to the partition of India. They voiced hope it would not send in motion a similar chain of events.

"But how can one be sure in the face of the kind of incomprehension and incompetence... on the part of whose who are in charge..." THE TIMES said.

The pro-Moscow PATRIOT newspaper warned against a "similar blunder" being made in the northern state of Punjab where Sikh militants are pressing for greater autonomy. "The Assam situation interacts with that in Punjab," it said.

The PATRIOT, which generally follows the line of the Communist Party of India (CPI), also said "no useful purpose is served by taking on this issue a legalistic stand and insisting that this election is conclusive and the outcome has the same validity of a normal election."

The anti-immigrant protesters had campaigned for a boycott of the elections with their goal a 95 percent abstention rate. While no official figures were immediately available, election commission sources put the turnout at a mere 10 percent.

The independent newspaper, THE STATESMAN, was more even-handed but grilled Mrs Gandhi for the selective nature of her election campaign in Assam and for "identifying so pointedly" with the immigrant Bengali electorate.

The STATESMAN also put on its firing line former Foreign Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, who heads the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party which boycotted the poll. Mr. Vajpayee, THE STATESMAN said, had cynically tried to exploit the opposing sectarian prejudices.

The paper also told the protest movement leaders that while they may congratulate themselves on a virtual failure of the polling exercise, "it is already time for them to consider what they have really gained."

THE STATESMAN joined with the independent THE INDIAN EXPRESS to call for the issue to be settled in a spirit of unity and national interest. "The immediate task is to restore confidence and order. With the conclusion of the poll there is no reason why the Army should not be deployed selectively wherever necessary," THE EXPRESS said.

AKALI DAL RULES OUT POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER TALKS

BK221601 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] The Akali Dal Longowal group high command has asked all members of legislative assembly and members of parliament from the party from Punjab to tender their resignations before 15 March.

Talking to newsmen after a 5-hour-long meeting of the high command in Amritsar today, the president, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, ruled out any possibility of further talks on Akali demands.

AKALI ASSEMBLYMEN ASKED TO CONFIRM RESIGNATIONS

BK230416 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] The Punjab assembly speaker, Mr Brij Bhushan Mehra, has written to the three Akali legislators, asking them to meet him on the 3d of next month to confirm the authenticity of their resignations from the state assembly. The three legislators are Mr Ravi Inder Singh, former speaker, Mr Jiwan Singh Umarnangal, and Mr (Harchad Singh Patanawala).

CONGRESS-I TO FORM GOVERNMENT IN MEGHALAYA

BK230414 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] In Meghalaya, Congress-I -- the largest single party -- has decided to stake its claim to form a new government in the state. The party has reviewed the outcome of the election in the state and found that it has the necessary support to form a government. According to party sources, the state executive has authorized the party leader and chief minister, Captain W.A. Sangma, to proceed with necessary steps in this regard.

All the results from Meghalaya have come in. According to agency reports, Mr Prithington Sangma of Congress-I retained Kharkutta seat in a five-cornered contest in East Garo Hills District. The Congress-I has obtained 25 seats. The All Party Hill Leaders Conference and the Hill State People's Democratic Party have secured 15 seats each; the Public Demands Implementation Convention has got 2, and 3 seats have gone in favor of independents.

PRC OFFICIAL CALLS FOR STRONGER TRADE TIES

BK210648 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] The vice president of the Chinese Council for Promotion of International Trade, Mr Zheng, has stressed the need for strengthening Sino-Indian economic, trade, and technical cooperation. Addressing a 2-day seminar on India-China trade in New Delhi, Mr Zheng said China welcomes all forms of cooperation to revamp its industrial enterprises.

FOUR KILLED AS RIVAL GROUPS CLASH IN KARACHI

BK221721 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Excerpts] A press note issued by the Karachi administration this evening says: Disappointed with the poor response from the public toward the call for general strike, certain unruly elements came out in groups in various parts of the city to obstruct the normal flow of vehicular traffic.

The press note says, near Sohrab Goth in a clash between two rival groups, four persons died due to exchange of fire. Another person succumbed to injuries from a stab wound received in a scuffle in Liyaqatabad. During the day, 35 persons were injured, out of these 5 seriously. Seven policemen were also injured.

The press note further says that attempts at looting of shops in Ancholi area was soon controlled by the police and the fire in the Liyaqatabad market was also immediately extinguished by the fire brigade. The police has so far made 50 arrests. Life in the rest of the city remained normal and the business was carried on as usual. Public transport in all other areas continued to play on time and without any obstruction.

Curfew Imposed

BK230232 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] The Sind Government issued a press note in Karachi yesterday evening, stating that in view of the tense law and order situation, it was decided to impose a curfew within the limit of Karachi West District with immediate effect and until further notice. However, the police station areas of (Orangi), (Mangopir), (Baldia), (Maripur), and (Sait) will be exempted from curfew restriction.

The curfew will be relaxed from 1400 to 1600 during the day so that people can procure their daily necessities. Government personnel and vehicles and cars with diplomatic plates will remain exempted from this restriction. These restrictions will not apply to law enforcement personnel and vehicles.

All educational institutions in Karachi city have been closed for 2 days. The press note added that the administration of the area has been entrusted to the Armed Forces for the restoration of law and order.

LEADERS MEET WITH CUBAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER

Foreign Secretary

BK191115 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] The deputy foreign minister of Cuba, Dr Pelegrin Torras de la Luz, who arrived in Islamabad this morning, had talks with the foreign secretary, Mr Niaz A. Naik, at the Foreign Office. Both sides were assisted at the talks by their senior aides.

The Cuban deputy foreign minister is scheduled to have another round of talks tomorrow morning. The talks will cover matters concerning the forthcoming nonaligned summit.

During his stay, he will also visit Tarbela dam, Lahore, and Karachi.

Yaqub Khan

BK191608 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] The Cuban deputy foreign minister called on Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub this afternoon. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan assured Torras that Pakistan is determined to adhere to the principles and objectives of the Nonaligned Movement and it will continue to strive for the achievement of its aims and objectives.

President Zia

BK201656 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Text] Dr Pelegrin Torras de la Luz, deputy foreign minister of Cuba, called on President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Islamabad this afternoon. They exchanged views on the ensuing nonaligned summit conference in New Delhi. He told the president that President Fidel Castro and his government eagerly desire to strengthen Pakistan-Cuba relations.

The president referred to the hospitality accorded him during his visit to Havana. He said Havana was where Pakistan was included in the Nonaligned Movement. He said he is looking forward to meeting with the Cuban president during the upcoming nonaligned summit conference. He said Pakistan is also desirous of promoting and strengthening friendly relations between the two countries.

Torras Comments

BK220608 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] The visiting Cuban deputy foreign minister has said his country fully agreed during the talks in Islamabad that the solution of the Afghan issue had to come through negotiations that were taking place through the representative of the UN secretary general. He was talking to newsmen on arrival in Lahore today. The Cuban minister along with his delegation later left Lahore for Karachi.

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES IRAQ, JORDAN VISITS

BK191121 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has said there is a wide measure of affinity in the views of Pakistan, Iraq, and Jordan on most of international issues, including the Middle East, and he is very satisfied with the outcome of his talks. Talking to newsmen at Islamabad Airport on his return from his tour of Jordan and Iraq, he said he had wide-ranging discussions with the leaders of these countries with which Pakistan always enjoyed particularly close relations.

The foreign minister said he conveyed separate messages of brotherly greetings from President Mohammad Ziaul Haq to King Husayn and President Saddam Husayn. He said the forthcoming nonaligned summit at New Delhi obviously figures in our discussions, apart from the Middle East situation as well as the tragic war between Iran and Iraq.

Replying to a question, he said Pakistan supported the Fes plan on the Middle East and hoped that a settlement of the issue of Palestinian rights along these lines will be reached, depending on the PLO conference in Algeria which is still going on.

Asked whether he discussed the Pakistan candidature for the OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] secretary generalship, he said this aspect was discussed with both the countries as well as Kuwait and they assured to give this matter a very favorable consideration.

Replying to yet another question, about Afghanistan in the forthcoming nonaligned summit, the foreign minister hoped that the conference will retain its past position.

He said he had a brief meeting with the Kuwaiti foreign minister during the stopover and discussed a number of issues, including the Middle East and bilateral relations.

REPORTAGE ON TALKS WITH INDIAN DELEGATION

Meeting With Finance Minister

BK220610 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] The visiting delegation of the Federation of the Indian Chamber of Commerce called on the federal finance minister, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in Islamabad today. Talking to the delegation, the minister said that Pakistan had taken several positive steps for promoting its relations with India in the economic field. However, in the light of past experience, it would not be wise to proceed in a big way and open trade between the two countries in the private sector without really identifying the items which could be traded on a long term basis to mutual advantage.

Earlier, the president of the Federation of the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr A.K. Jain, briefly discussed with the finance minister the proposal that he had brought to promote economic cooperation between the two countries. The Indian delegation also discussed in Islamabad today the possibilities of cooperation in the fields of industry, with the federal minister for industries, Elahi Bux Soomro.

Session With President Zia

BK230611 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] The visiting Indian trade delegation led by Ashok Kumar Jain had a meeting with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Islamabad today. Matters relating to the development of relations in the field of trade and commerce between Pakistan and India were discussed at the meeting. Both sides expressed the hope that the establishment of the Indo-Pakistan joint ministerial commission would give further stimulation to efforts in other areas of cooperation. The meeting was attended among others by the federal ministers for finance, foreign affairs, industries, and production.

Later speaking at a reception, the leader of the Indian delegation appreciated the president's keenness to normalize bilateral relations and increase trade between the two countries.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,227

LD221747 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Communique No 1,227 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. At 1029 this morning, an Iraqi aircraft was downed by antiaircraft fire from our defense units and fighter aircraft of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Wal Fajr operational zone. The number of enemy aircraft downed during the preliminary stage of the Wal Fajr operation has now reached 10.

Exchanges of heavy weapons fire continued yesterday on all the southern fronts. It was particularly heavy in the Faqih to Khazzabah areas. Our forces enjoyed fire superiority in defending their positions on these fronts. In the (Sharhani) region, enemy patrol units twice tried to penetrate our positions, but were forced to flee due to the vigilance and firepower of the forces of Islam.

In the Abadan and Khorramshahr operational zones, our forces opened fire on concentrations of the Saddam forces. One 106 mm-gun, 1 vehicle, 2 observation posts, and 2 machinegun positions were destroyed and a number of enemy forces were killed or wounded.

Three homes yesterday were destroyed in Abadan by enemy long-range shells. Two of our compatriots were injured.

On the western fronts, our forces continued their activities by smashing enemy positions and fortifications while defending the area under their protection. In addition to neutralizing minefields on these fronts, a vast quantity of weapons was seized from the enemy by our armored patrol units. Three trucks carrying Iraqi personnel were destroyed and at least nine enemy soldiers were killed.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

VELAYATI HEADS DELEGATION TO YUGOSLAVIA

LD221220 Tehran IRNA in English 0948 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Tehran, Feb 22 (IRNA) -- The Iranian foreign affairs minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, left Tehran for Yugoslavia this morning, at the invitation of his Yugoslav counterpart, Lazar Mojsov.

Velayati, heading a high-ranking delegation, will hold talks with Yugoslav Government officials on further expansion of mutual relations in the fields of economy, trade, culture, and industry. He will also discuss issues related to the forthcoming summit meeting of the non-aligned countries, scheduled to open in New Delhi, India, next month.

REPORTS ON NICARAGUAN TRADE MINISTER'S VISIT

19 February Arrival

LD202044 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] According to our correspondent, the Nicaraguan foreign trade minister arrived in Tehran today and was met at the airport by our country's commerce minister.

Meetings With Musavi, Velayati

LD210039 Tehran IRNA in English 2012 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Text] Tehran, Feb 20, IRNA -- During his second day in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nicaraguan Foreign Trade Minister Alejandro Martinez met separately with Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Sunday.

During his meeting with Prime Minister Musavi, the Nicaraguan minister described the two countries' role in struggling against U.S. imperialism.

Prime Minister Musavi also stressed Iran's "neither East nor West" foreign policy and her special concern for the Third World countries, and said that cooperation between Iran and Nicaragua should expand.

During this meeting, Deputy Foreign Minister Kazempur-Ardabili was also present.

The visit of the Nicaraguan minister is in relation to past agreements with the Islamic Republic in political and economic fields.

In a later meeting with Foreign Minister Velayati, Martinez handed a message from the Nicaraguan leader, Daniel Ortega, congratulating Imam Khomeyni on the fourth anniversary of the Islamic Revolution. Also the two men discussed the upcoming non-aligned summit meet in New Delhi and matters of mutual interest.

Foreign Minister Velayati also expressed the readiness of the Islamic Republic to help the Nicaraguan people and Government in their struggle against imperialism.

21 February Departure

LD211853 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] Alejandro Martinez, Nicaraguan minister of foreign trade, left Tehran today. During his stay, he had discussions with officials on expanding commerical and economic relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Nicaragua. In these discussions, the need for close cooperation between the two countries to confront international imperialism and the economic domination of the superpower was emphasized.

The Nicaraguan delegation expressed its desire to export sugar, meat, coffee, spices, sesame seed, castor beans, and timber to our country. It was decided that this offer will be studied by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

CUBAN TRADE DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR TALKS

LD202046 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Text] A Cuban trade delegation headed by that country's deputy foreign trade minister arrived in Tehran and was welcomed at the airport by our country's under secretary for foreign trade in the Commerce Ministry. The visiting Cuban delegation is to hold talks with economic and commerce officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran on topics relating to the expansion of bilateral trade. The Cuban delegation's visit is to last for a few days.

PAPER CRITICIZES GCC MINISTERIAL MEETING

GF201018 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 20 Feb 83

[From press review]

[Text] SOBH-E AZADEGAN carried an article on the meeting of the GCC of the Persian Gulf countries. The article says in part:

Once again, after the victorious operations of the heroes of Islam, which were called Wal Fajr, and after the defeat of Saddam and the announcement that these operations will continue until final victory, the reactionaries in the region have made new moves. Today they are holding a new session of the GCC of the Persian Gulf countries in Riyadh. At the top of their agenda, the GCC ministers will discuss the victorious Wal Fajr operations, the sweeping victories which our heroes achieved on the front, the cooperation and coordination among Iran, Syria, and Libya, and petroleum prices.

What can be concluded from these three issues which the GCC will discuss is that the stand and policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran will actually be the crux of all discussions and deliberations. This stand is represented by refraining from adopting a neutral stance in all fields, in resisting monopoly, investments, and imperialist ambitions and chopping off the hands of these imperialist ambitions in the region.

The paper continued editorially: This session, the sixth session of the GCC, which began in Riyadh, will not be different from the previous regular or emergency sessions. It will be dedicated to finding means to aid the Zionist-Saddamist regime and to protecting it from collapse, in addition to providing huge amounts of money from the natural wealth of the oppressed people, represented by petroleum, to this criminal and infidel regime. It is incorrect to say that the previous GCC meetings and the aid provided to rescue the Saddam regime were all valuable. On the contrary, the noose has been tightened on the 'Aflaqist Saddamist regime.

The paper continues: Further evidence of that is the serious crisis that affected the Kuwaiti economy as a result of the armament and credit aid which the rulers of this country provided to the Baghdad regime. That is why the resolutions of this GCC session will be similar to those of previous sessions. They are only ink on paper, since these resolutions are issued without the consent of the peoples.

So, the reactionary regimes who associated their interests with the United States and the other imperialist countries, have to be aware that these deeds of theirs will bring harm to their countries and their peoples. They must go back to the lap of Islam, abandon the 'Aflaqist regime in Baghdad, and stop squandering the wealth of their peoples since the fate that awaits Saddam is similar to the fates of the buried shah, of As-Sadat, of Bashir al-Jumayyil, and of the other agents in the region.

KHOMEYNI KHORASAN REPRESENTATIVE SURVIVES ATTACK

LD191119 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Mashhad, Feb 18, IRNA -- An attempt on the life of Imam Khomeyni's representative in Khorasan Province and superintendent of the holy shrine of Imam Reza (A.S) was foiled by the Islamic Revolution's guards here.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Abbas Va'ez Tabasi was attacked by two members of the Monafeqin (MKO) terrorists at this week's Friday prayers ceremony here led by Ayatollah Shirazi. The attackers tried to harm Hojjat ol-Eslam Tabasi by striking his body with electrical wires for the purpose of electrocuting him. However, the Islamic Revolution's guards at the scene shot and killed one of the attackers by the name of Babaie and wounded the other by the name of Mirnejad. The attack which occurred between the first and second sermon of Ayatollah Shirazi, failed to do any harm on Hojjat ol-Eslam Tabasi.

Later in a radio and television broadcast, the imam's representative said that it was unfortunate that the attackers had not reached their objective since, he added, I would have been a great pride [as received] to be a martyr for the Islamic Revolution.

At the prayers ceremony, the people immediately reacted to the attack with cries of Allah o akbar (God is great) and death to Monafeqin.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Tabasi also in the broadcast message said the senseless Monafeqin should not have the imagination that they could harm the Islamic Revolution or deviate the Muslim people from their path through such crimes. "The people are aware [words indistinct] will follow their Islamic goals and if any of us (officials of the Islamic Republic) pass this world there are others who would step towards these goals with the grace of God," he said.

Khomeyni Cables Tabasi

LD191139 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Telegram from Imam Khomeyni to Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Va'ez-Tabasi in Mashhad]

[Text] In His exalted name. To His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Tabasi, esteemed guardian of the holy shrine of Imam Reza -- may his good work continue, holy Mashhad:

Thanks be to Almighty God that the criminal plot hatched by the deviationists from Islam against your excellency was frustrated, and thanks be to the Lord that these criminals daily add yet another black page to their book of crime. The fact that by the will of God Almighty their hands are cut off, that their factions curse the other groups, and that they despair from attaining the aspirations in their imagination, they now find that they have no other means for demonstrating their existence other than resorting to sabotage. That, too, shall bring them nothing but disgrace.

I beseech God Almighty to grant health and happiness to your excellency and to other people dedicated to Islam and serving the Islamic Republic.

Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

[Signed] 19 February 1983, Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni